

THE  
BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL  
JOURNAL.

VOL. XVIII.]

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1838.

[NO. 5.]

STATE OF MEDICINE IN PARIS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

*Paris, May 25th, 1837.*

SINCE my first visit to the Hospital of Charity (in Jacob street), its wards and baths are become among the best in Paris. The Clinical Hospital, opposite to the School of Medicine, is also advantageously re-organized. In these, and in the Hotel Dieu, and in the museum of the School of Medicine, the porter is more scrupulous than formerly as to the admission of visitors; so that, except at the times appointed for visits, the stranger must show special reason for admission. It will be a facility if he can propose a visit to a professional officer on duty in the hospitals.

The Salpêtrière, the asylum, principally, of aged women (its front equalling in size and comeliness any of the palaces), shelters 5500 persons, among whom is the department of 1100 insane women. In this immense asylum of the poor, admirable to behold, are found the same sort of buildings, of *one* story, of *separate* rooms, opening upon beautiful courts, edged with neat piazzas, facing good prospects, as in the private asylum of Dr. E., devoted to the rich: and admirable is the patience and management with which the complaints of the inmates are heard by the physicians who superintend them. On the other hand, so excessive has been the zeal of the lay-administrators of the asylum, that without, and even contrary to the judgment of the physicians, they have needlessly and unskillfully erected nearly a dozen separate houses of four rooms each, for the more retired accommodation of certain patients; which isolation thwarts that principle of constant attendance and vigilance which is indispensable in asylums of this sort.\*

The principal peculiarity of the modern French asylums for insanity is the use of buildings of one story, to prevent the danger of staircases, the appearance of window-bars, and the fatigue of the service. In comparison with these advantages, the cost of ground and of roof are held

\* Had the trustees of one of our asylums restrained their presumption in venturing to expend the fruits of public liberality on edifices, as to the uses of which they were uninformed, until the enlightened — had been established in his functions, or had they even deigned to listen to some of the suggestions which a humble predecessor had urged, the immense cost which afterwards ensued under the requisiteness of early experience would have been avoided, and I should be now spared the mortification of silently hearing, "You have nothing like this, although our records show that we took pains to show these things to you very long ago. *Pidisti meliore, probantius; dele-tora peiora et.*" The consequent inconveniences and corrective costs have been great and discouraging to some persons who were disposed to be benefactors to that asylum.

to be of small importance. The grounds are, of late, much extended here, and are cultivated by 50 patients from the Section of the hospital of Bicêtre which is appropriated to insane men, who are daily marched here for labor.

My first knowledge of the Salpêtrière was with the high privilege of the guidance of its great physician, Pinel, and of his, now illustrious, associate, Esquirol. Pinel received me most kindly, an unrecommended stranger, and inquired with much interest after Dr. Rush, who had lately written his book on "Diseases of the Mind." Pinel was then nearly seventy years old. His mildness, patience, forbearance, and encouraging spirit towards the insane women, some hundreds, under his charge, and towards their inquiring and anxious friends, were admirable. As a teacher, he excelled in the precision and variety of his notes and tables, and as a natural historian of disease. His frequent question was—"How are we to know when and how far it is advisable to intermeddle with a malady, unless we have learned its natural and ordinary termination, if left to itself? We do not know enough to be authorized, in every case, to try to alter or arrest its course. Observing and experienced men handle the appliances of their art with delicate reserve, considering themselves as only ministers of nature." Pinel has gone to his reward. In Esquirol's study is a good marble bust of him, which well accords with my remembrance of the original. Esquirol is no longer attached to the Salpêtrière. The medical service of this Section is performed by M. Pariset, who is also Perpetual Secretary of the Academy of Medicine, where he resides; M. Falret, author of treatises on hypochondria, suicide, &c.; and Dr. Mitivier, Esquirol's nephew, and son by adoption, and associate in his celebrated private asylum at Ivry, two and a half miles from Paris. M. Falret, with M. Voisin, has an excellent asylum at Vanves, two and a half miles from Paris, comprising sixty acres. My family will not forget the good will which they experienced from this interesting household.—M. Pariset has been in Egypt; he is a man of extensive and various ideas, and of very lively imagination; in manners he recalls to me Pinel. Esquirol is transferred to the principal charge of the great public asylum for insanity, at Charenton, near to Paris. He goes there twice or thrice a week, at 7, A. M., even in winter, and is there employed till 2, P. M. This asylum has been of late greatly improved, and is continuing to be so: "Yet," says Esquirol, "I sometimes regret my women at the Salpêtrière." He has removed his private asylum from his residence near the Garden of Plants, where I used to see it, to the neighborhood of Paris, where he purchased 25 acres, having on them three houses, for \$40,000. To this sum he has added \$60,000, being the earnings of 35 years. He has there built an edifice of ten rooms, with a piazza, on a single floor, and with an appendage to each room of a sleeping room for the attendant of the patient occupying the principal room, and who never quits his charge. This edifice is at the head of a garden or lawn. From its ends proceed piazzas forming the boundaries of the lawn, and terminating in a fourth piazza which is enclosed by a railing, through which an extensive prospect is presented. A more

retired and smaller court is behind the building. A billiard-room and bathing-room is appended. Each sex is thus separately accommodated. They pass all of the pleasant weather, with their attendants, in the lawns, or in going abroad, or in some occupation. The convalescents reside in the other houses on the estate. All who are able, of both sexes, meet at the table of the agreeable family of Dr. Mitivier, and pass the evening in his parlor. The douche, coming in a column of even two inches, from a height even of eight feet, upon the head of an otherwise unimpressible, extravagant patient, must be influential. Only thirty patients are here received. Natives pay \$80 per month, and foreigners \$100, including all expenses. The interest of the cost of the asylum is not realized; but Dr. E. has no children, and says he has no need of money, but is sufficiently gratified by the application, in practice, of his professional views. There are eleven persons employed in the general domestic service of the house, besides those who are devoted immediately to the patients. One of my fellow visitors to this asylum, published an account of it in Colburn's Monthly Magazine, London, which has been quoted in the Albion, New York. Some years ago, Esquirol, under commission from the Minister of the Interior, visited most of the receptacles for insane people on the Continent; his observations in that tour are condensed under the article, "Houses for Insane People," in the Dic. des Scien. Med. Lately infirm health led him to pass nearly a year in Italy. He exhibits much intellectual refinement. He was correcting the proof-sheets of a collection of his professional memoirs. To be again received, so cordially as I was, and my family too, by one so eminently useful as he has been, and to find him, after so long an interval of distant separation from him, still so useful, is a rare and high satisfaction.

Dr. Esquirol has a room lined with perfectly prepared skulls of persons intellectually remarkable. They are very plainly and neatly numbered, in reference to a book descriptive of them. As Dr. Spurzheim had spoken to me of Dr. E., stating, among other things, that they unitedly attended to the examination of the head of Casimir Perrier (a model of which I noticed at Dr. E.'s), I asked if Dr. S. had studied this collection of skulls, &c. In answer, Dr. E. pointed to me skull No. 571, in which the outer surface of the parietal bones is very remarkably depressed, into a deep furrow, no correspondence to which is found within! No. 247, in which a large portion of the outer surface is very prominent, and the correspondent internal plate within is equally prominent inward and downward! E. said that these were by no means solitary specimens in his collection of such organization, and that from the time, long ago, when Dr. S. examined them, his researches among the specimens in this cabinet were discontinued. The physiognomical part of his doctrine supposes that the external and internal surfaces of the skull are parallel.—Among the patients in Dr. E.'s asylum, I conversed with one, a Belgian gentleman, aged about 30, well educated. He had lately made his first visit to Paris. At the end of two months, in the court-yard of the Court-house, he struck an officer of the establishment who happened to be in his way. On being questioned,

he answered that he had no other reason for giving the blow than he would have had for striking an animal which obstructed his passage. He declined the aid of counsel. His landlord had noticed nothing remarkable in his deportment: he had been regular and orderly. He had travelled much, particularly in Great Britain, with what object it did not appear. In the Court-house a jurist-physician is readily attendant, in aid of such inquiries as he can promote: he suggested that the Belgian was under alienation of mind: he was accordingly consigned to Bicêtre, and his family in Belgium were advised of his condition. In answer, they commissioned some one to transfer him to Dr. E.'s asylum; who says that he has noticed no aberration of mind in him, and that he should not hesitate to resign him to the demand of his family.

The hospital of Bicêtre, half a league from Paris, has a Section for insane men, under the charge of M. Ferrus (son-in-law of the late surgeon Dubois), aided by Scipio Pinel, resident in the hospital, son of the great physician before named, and author of a recent *4to* on Insanity. This Section is also much improved and improving. There are wards for epileptics, for idiots, and for sick people. There is a sitting room or refectory for 100 madmen, attended by 10 guardians. M. Ferrus comes here thrice weekly, at 8, A. M., even in winter, by an omnibus. His salary is \$600. There is a Section for infirm old men in the medical charge of M. Rouchoux, author of a valuable treatise on apoplexy: he resides in the hospital. His salary is \$240. M. R. is of a very lively spirit, and very zealously devoted to science. Through M. Thiers, M. Ferrus was lately commissioned to visit the European asylums for insane people. In Great Britain, as he does not understand English, some medical man, who understood French, accompanied him in his course, until they met another medical interpreter, and so on through his tour. In 1834 he published "*Rapport sur les aliénés*," p. 300. He showed me some of his own unpublished notes, drawings, &c., and a portrait, by Girard, of Dubois, as he was in my former acquaintance with him.

Most of the objects of information on the Continent and in Great Britain are so readily open to the stranger, that he seldom need seek for personal furtherance. If he is a mature professional man, entitled to, and willing to put himself in the way to receive personal attention, he will have accorded to him plenary explanations, civil words, and convenient positions, such as those whom he visits are in the habit of experiencing when they go abroad. To accidents of this sort I owe my introduction to the principal medical people whom I have lately seen in England (July). The Academy of Medicine meets in Paris, No. 7, Poitiers street, at 3, P. M., the first Tuesday of every month. The stranger is freely admitted, and can present communications.

At half a league from Bicêtre is a farm belonging to it, and recently established, for residence and employment of such patients of Bicêtre as are fitted for agriculture. Ferrus visits them.

M. Devillas, a banker, a few years ago bequeathed his house, in the street des Regards, and other property, to be used for an infirmary. It is a very good establishment.

Eighteen years ago the house of Enghien, No. 8 Picpus street, was established; it is a very neat hospital for 50 people: also the Infirmary of Maria Theresa, for 15 people, by Madame Chateaubriand, adjoining to her own residence, No. 84 street d'Enfer: also the Laprince hospital for 20 people, No. 45 St. Dominick street.

The windows of the French hospitals are generally large and high towards the ceiling, and divided into small compartments which are readily opened and shut, by cords, for various degrees of ventilation. The beds are supplied with white linen curtains in summer, and dark-green woolen ones in winter; the patients with cotton or woolen gowns. In some of the hospitals is an open fire-place, chiefly used for small culinary purposes. Large stoves, of glazed-earthen ware, towards the middle of the wards, are the rendezvous of some patients for the purposes of sociability, and serve to keep their drinks warm. The temperature of their wards is thus kept higher than that of their private rooms, which is not so high as with us. The French do not desire warm rooms.

Among the "Sisters of Charity" was lately Josephine, only daughter of the late Marshal Junot. She pursued the high offices of her calling with a devotedness equal to that which her mother, the Duchess of Abrantés, exhibits in her historical labors. Lately, disordered health, and the consequent injunctions of her spiritual director, led the young lady to resign these labors of charity.

The great services of M. Dupuytren, as surgeon of the Hotel Dieu, were crowned by his bequest of nearly \$40,000 for the improvement of surgical science. His ability to present this offering, and the great fortune which he left to his daughter, are indirectly, as well as directly, attributable to his professional success. At an early period of his career, seeing a gentleman thrown from his gig, and his leg broken, he ran to his succor, and accompanied him home. Stating himself to be a surgeon, he offered to perform the first services required by the injury, and to await the arrival of such other aid as the gentleman might summon. These services being completed, the gentleman, one of the brothers Rothschild, requested his continued care, and on his recovery presented to him a princely largess. The surgeon requested that the fee should remain under the custody and investment of this great banker, to whom were henceforth confided his fees received from other sources. In the last sickness of Louis XVIII. Dupuytren's prognostic, as a medical attendant, was sought by his banker, whose important financial proceedings were consequently and justly arranged; and it is believed that Dupuytren's interests were promoted by opportunities, indicated to him by R., for speculations in the public funds. His introduction to the Hotel Dieu was facilitated by the late surgeon Boyer, of whose family he proposed to become a member. This purpose he waived. Domestic disquiet afterwards goaded him on to professional greatness. For 10 years he never failed of visiting twice daily his large Section of the Hotel Dieu. His first visit began long before day-light. His domineering, magisterial deportment, was sometimes overwhelming to some, even of his private patients and their anxious friends, and such as would pro-

bably not be presented or tolerated at the present day. The least failure, by his pupils, of complete preparation for his operations, sometimes occasioned violent and even ferocious expressions of his displeasure, for which he has occasionally been led to make honorable amends. As to his surgical reputation he was sensitive. In an English Journal it was alleged that he had used, as his own, a suggestion of the late Dr. Physick; and on receiving from one of our students some satisfactory views on the subject, as presented by Dorsey, his acknowledgments were very full. His museum of morbid anatomy is deposited on the south side of the street of the School of Medicine, in the refectory of the ancient great convent of Cordeliers. His brother used periodically to visit Boston, as captain of a merchant-ship, from Nantes.

Dupuytren's successor, M. Roux, was drilled to surgical practice as assistant, at the Hospital of Charity, of his father-in-law, Boyer, whose visits to the hospital used to be so early that he was attended in the wards by a candle-bearer.

Much fatality has lately resulted after surgical operations in the Hotel Dieu. A censorious statement has been presented to the Administration, relative to a death which occurred three hours after an operation on the face. This leads to examination and consideration of the subject, which will be useful to all parties. On the subject of mortality consequent to surgical operations, I will present a recent note from one of my neighbors whom I left in Paris, and of whom Louis says, "Young S. pleases me; he recalls to me poor Jackson, whom I loved so much." Such individuals, marked as they are "by moral purity and incessant industry," in their retired chambers and sometimes cheerless walks of improvement here, must occasionally feel with acuteness their great distance from the domestic scenes of which they have been the cherished objects. May the stores of useful knowledge, accumulated by such inquirers, be consecrated to the interests of their fellow citizens, and be duly appreciated for their own good and for encouragement of a high-minded and liberal course of education.

"Metastatic abscesses.—Four or five days after a patient has undergone a surgical operation, he is seized with a severe chill. The supuration of the wound becomes of an unhealthy character. The tongue is dry and brown. There is pain about the lungs or liver. He sinks and dies. A collection of matter is found in the lungs, liver, spleen, brain, cellular tissue, or joints. Sometimes the tissue of the organ immediately in contact with the matter seems perfectly sound, sometimes inflamed.—Has the supuration of the wound been absorbed by the veins, mingled with the blood and deposited in those parts? Or is the matter formed from the inflamed inner surface of the veins? Velpeau showed to us a specimen two days after death; his lecture was excellent. He thinks that the pus is absorbed, that particles of it are deposited in the tissues, and act as foreign bodies; inflammation and abscess follow. Blandin has had an interesting case of inflammation of a vein, consequent to bleeding. Matter was found in the veins. The local symptoms subsided, and pleurisy followed. Velpeau has never



known a case which has not terminated fatally. Blandin speaks of one."

Twenty years ago, M. Roux visited London, and published a memoir on the cure of squinting, illustrated by his own case. " \* \* \* " aged 35, squinted ever since infancy. Twenty times he set himself to try to force his eyes to act together on objects submitted to them; or, by covering the left eye which was much the strongest, to use the right only, to strengthen which by use seemed a necessary preliminary. For hours together he read or wrote, alternately using his right eye and both eyes, striving to make them coincide toward the same point. When he looked at a near object requiring to be seen with precision, he could not avoid squinting. Confused vision and great mental fatigue followed his attempts. These effects lessened; in a few days his right eye grew as strong as his left, and he could not prevent them from acting in concert. Many months have since past. Nothing now shows which eye used to squint; both eyes are stronger than the left was."

Lately Lord Lyndhurst brought his daughter from London to Paris for the sake of using M. Roux's surgical skill: the result was fatal. A few months before, Sir Benjamin Travers went from London to Frankfort to attend, as it proved, the last sickness of Rothschild. So prone are we to seek foreign aid, and distant means, without due reference to those which are at hand. M. Roux is an urbane man, and both at home and abroad shows his good will to professional inquirers.

M. Louis has lately been transferred from the medical charge in the hospital of Pity, to the Hotel Dieu. He formerly made a professional tour to Russia. He has served an apprenticeship in the school of disappointment and adversity, and has derived from it that force of character and intentness of purpose which is earning for him a well-merited rank. He is intimate with Esquirol, and is of the observant, expectant school of Pinel, whose work on Nosography, Cabanis on "The Degree of Certainty of Medicine," Hannerman's "Æsculapius in the Balance," his "Value of Medical Systems," his "Advice to an Aspirant in Medicine," Heberden's Commentaries, and Sir Gilbert Blane's "Errors in Medicine," form excellent accompaniments to M. Louis's publications and clinical instructions.

Many more patients enter the French hospitals immediately after the numerous holidays weekly, &c., than at any other times; and many enter under the effects of the exhaustion of misery. For these reasons M. Louis not unfrequently leaves his new patients to a day's repose, to allow them to get well under the comforts of their adopted home, and avoids the risk of disturbing them by the appliances of art. In certain lectures in the School of Medicine, and by some of the speakers in the Academy of Medicine, the mode of study pursued by M. Louis is unbecomingly mentioned with contempt and abuse. He says, "I was the object of surprise and pity." It is alleged that the great extent of his tabular forms prevents their general use, though they may present a show and serve as a hobby on which he may ride into public notice in the midst of his young disciples; that his peculiar notions are urged as a means of notoriety to their author. It is not likely that his course of extensive

inquiry will be so fully pursued by others, as it has been by him. It should certainly suggest to medical writers the remark of one of the best of them, "All that I *know* may be expressed in a very small book." The tables of Pinel, Esquirol, and of Falret's collection of 50,000 cases, are prepared in the same philosophic spirit which governs M. Louis's.

I could not find the window at which Cuvier used to be seen at his labors; the spot is now well occupied by a green house which invites the birds, who fill it with chanting; we may imagine it to be in praise of him who used to grace this favored spot. Near to it, however, is still seen the venerable Redouté, teaching the drawing and painting of flowers to a large class of young ladies, among whom he showed special satisfaction in instructing the foreigners. The walls of his residence, No. 4 Seine street, are covered with valuable pictures. He was a schoolmate of Audubon, when "David guided their young hands," and author of the great and splendid work on Lilies and Roses. The Empress Josephine and the ladies around her constantly received his lessons. Bonaparte advised him to turn his attention to historical painting; but when B. was shown, by certain English publications, in what esteem R. was held abroad, he immediately became an object of Imperial liberality and patronage. Audubon says, "Through my noble-spirited friend, M. Redouté, I was introduced to the now King of the French, and to several ministers of State. The hour spent with Louis Philippe and his son, was by their dignified urbanity rendered one of the most agreeable that has fallen to my lot; in consequence I procured many patrons and friends." A copy of A.'s "*Birds of America*" is in the king's private library.

One of Redouté's drawings was lately stolen; the theft was discovered by the drawing being offered for sale at a price below what his productions always command. Some of them are in English cabinets at a high cost. It is a satisfaction to witness the gradual construction of such beautiful objects under such a hand. He has a very pleasing picture of his school room and class above named.

F. A. Michaux, the historian of our forest trees, has an apartment facing the Flower-market. As agent of an Agricultural Society, he has successfully planted 10,000 acres of the most sterile land in Normandy, with pine trees; on a part of the estate is one of the most ancient chateaus or castles of France, nearly 1000 years old.

Breschet, a very urbane, accessible person, was last season introduced to the Chair of Anatomy. The election occasioned disappointment to the students, who had adopted another favorite; and measures were taken to prevent expressions of dissatisfaction. M. Breschet observed that our medical journals were composed from European ones.—The Professors' salary is about \$2000.

Malgaigne used to give to me a copy of the proof-sheets of his "*Surgical Anatomy*" as soon as he received them from the printer, until the death of the publisher caused the suspension of the work. These sheets, by the advice of M. Breschet and of the Director, I sent to one of my good professional friends here for translation, who being called



away, as a teacher of anatomy, I do not know the result of my intentions on this subject.

Civiale is at the Necker hospital: his associate, as a lithotrite, H., resides in Portland Place, Westminster. The necessity of frequent operations upon the same case, each of which is more or less painful (Civiale thinks himself fortunate when his cases are exempt from these troubles); certain instances of discovery of stone after death, in a patient who had "been cured;" the great price, paid beforehand, for the operation; the advertisements of the operator's intended return to the Continent, have lessened, even among some surgeons of London, the zeal in favor of what they see among them of lithotripsy.

The veteran Larrey, Bonaparte's chief military surgeon, still holds to moxa as a favorite agent. He lately proposed to apply it to one of our medical men laboring under trouble of the "heart:" who, like any lay-patient, put off, as long as he was allowed, the painful remedy; and after its application, adjourned its repetition, *sine die*. Within a few weeks L. has resigned his post and residence in the Hotel of Invalids, as the Government no longer allows two offices to be held by the same person; he has therefore retired to the place of his preference. He has a son who is a surgeon.

Alibert still continues to lecture on diseases of the skin at the hospital of St. Louis, and his associate, Bielt, is still there, who has done much relative to sulphur baths, &c.\* A long time ago, I remember A. giving

\* Cullerier is still attached to the Hospital for Venereal Diseases, and to its appendant House of Health, No. 17 Street of the Faubourg of St. James.—Jadelot is still Physician, and Bafosse, Dubois' nephew, is still Surgeon, of the Children's Hospital.—The present season the venerable Dubois' mortal part was drawn to its resting place, by the pupils of the medical school. His station as accoucheur to the late Empress Maria Louisa, and as at the head of his profession, gave to him a positive and laconic style of expression. One of our countrymen asked his opinion relative to his little son. Dubois, after observing him, answered, "Spoiled child, that is all!" and received his louis for this salutary and just hint. He called his pupils "my children"—"to the operation, my children." When he was seated before a large class, dictating advice for out-patients, to his senior pupils, who acted as amanuenses, the idea seemed realized, of the ancient sages giving the law to their disciples. To the young ones he used to say, "I see among you those who should be at elementary schools, learning *dominus, -i, -o, -um*." With philosophic submission he used to support the development of an error. "Children, amputation of that arm was manifestly unnecessary; it now appears that the tumor might have been removed; but it is done!—what's next?" Peletian, Dupuytren and Boyer had assented to the amputation.—Of his hospital-patients he required that they should, without reluctance, submit to his decision; a wavering or misgiving spirit was excluded from his services, at least till "un autre jour"! A child, struggling and screaming under an operation, was to be rendered passive, even though chastisement should be required to effect acquiescence by producing a greater fear than that of the operation. In learning the nature of a new case, he sometimes trusted to his own judgment, though it led him to conclusions quite at variance with the patient's history, whom he then did not hesitate positively and unrelentingly to contradict.

I had been presented to him, in his visit to the Clinical Hospital, as an American student. At his next operation, he placed me at his side. Seeing me retire a little from this conspicuous station, he said, "If thou quittest thy station, I will not re-instate thee." Thus was my right to this place assigned and conceded, and I could not fail of occupying it at every succeeding operation during my pupillage there.

The operation above named, for stone in the bladder, was completed in a very short time, and with little suffering to the patient, a little boy. This operation, and that for hernia, as I have seen them, are performed by the French surgeons with special facility and readiness, without much ado.

For my first introduction to Dubois, I was indebted to Delisle, now Professor of Botany in the University of Montpellier, and who, in again welcoming me to France, last year, occasioned my acquaintance with Dr. Ferrus, before named. Dubois received my family in the same cabinet where I used to visit him in my early days.—His son worthily succeeds him in the charge of the Lying-in House, or Abbey of Port-Royal, No. 3 Street of the Bourbe. He is a very sober person. In his own apartment, on the Quay of Voltaire, I saw another portrait of the father, by Girard.—With that accomplished and amiable artist I had the satisfaction of an interview a few weeks before his eulogy was pronounced on his grave by his friend Chateaubriand. Girard made friendly inquiry of me relative to our townsmen, Mr. E., whose portrait he had taken some years ago.

Boyer has died. He is succeeded, as a surgeon, by his son, who occupies his father's late residence in St. Dominic Street. Boyer used to give, in the amphitheatre, a clinical lecture, after his visit at the Hospital of Charity, without notes, on all the cases under his care, distinguishing them only by the number of the beds.—When his private patients desired to use a remedy which he had not sug-

his lessons and counsel under a great tree in the garden. A girl was presented to him for advice: and in a digression he stated to his pupils that the patient possessed various physical characteristics peculiarly favorable to the marriage state, and worthy of remark by those who looked forward to that condition!—In a digression, this season, he “attributed the great fire in New York to the fact of that city’s being built of pitch-pine”!—Such is the information possessed by a distinguished teacher as to a great foreign city which has, every 10 days, direct and extensive communication with his own city, and which generally numbers some of its young citizens among his disciples! I repeat the digression partly for its pleasantry, and partly as one of numerous evidences that our distance from Europe renders its interest in us much less than many of us imagine. Many of its people attach such importance to its palaces, its fine arts, its luxuries, to what they call its refinements, to each other and to themselves, that little sympathy remains with them for other remote objects.

The mere reports of the objects above named so awaken our interest that we receive with readiness those who come from among them and can tell us of them: such hospitality is not quite disinterested. It produces an equivalent. There is not the same ground for reception of ourselves, when we become visitors to them.

Those of us who visit the Old World must expect a kindly reception principally on account of manifest individual worth, intelligence, propriety of deportment, and assiduous pursuit of objects conducive to improvement and usefulness. Thus they will effect comparisons honorable to themselves, and to their country, and render both attractive to the eyes and judgment of persons who are worthy to be sought. G. P.

#### POISONING BY ARSENIC.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—In accordance with your request, I send you a copy of my notes of a case of poisoning by arsenic, which happened in this city a few days since. They are necessarily imperfect, as will be readily seen; but if you think them of sufficient interest, they are at your disposal.

310 Washington St., Feb. 26th, 1838. Yours, &c.

B. E. COTTING.

The patient, a young man, 22 years of age, of Irish parentage, had been in State Prison two or three years, and had been released about as

gested, he used to prescribe a like remedy, to preserve their confidence in him, and to secure, by their satisfaction, the observance of such measures as he preferred.—Being ordered by Napoleon to go into Spain to perform a surgical operation on one of the Marshals, he proposed that another surgeon should go in his place, “in whose skill all reliance should be placed.” Napoleon answered, “To such a surgeon confide your own patients during your absence.”—I had occasion to consult Beyer formerly relative to a case of white swelling. The patient being a dozen miles from Paris, I had the satisfaction of passing several hours with Beyer. Next morning he recognized me at his hospital, introduced me to M. Roux, and assigned to me, as a stranger, a place by his side at the operation, which was amably accorded to me during my stay in Paris.

In the *Western Journal of Medical and Physical Sciences*, No. XLIII., Supplement page 33, is a paper on French Surgery, by Dr. Parker, of the College of Cincinnati, Ohio, who has lately returned from Paris.

many months. Since his release he had conducted with much propriety. On the evening of the 19th ult. he purchased at an apothecary's, two ounces of arsenic, and did not return home, as he was accustomed to do, but lodged at a hotel. He rose early, went to a lawyer's office, of which he had the charge, and put things in order there. He then procured breakfast; eating, according to his own statement, meat, potatoes, bread, &c. Soon after breakfast, he procured a tumbler of wine and water at a grocery, and was seen, by the boy who gave it to him, to pour a white powder into it. To make sure that he got the whole, he filled the glass twice with water and drank it. This was about quarter past nine, A. M. He then went immediately home and sat quietly over the fire.

About half past eleven I was called to him. He was then sitting on a bed, upon the floor, taking no notice of things about him, sullen and unwilling to answer questions. He had been taken, a few moments before, with urgent vomiting, and then told what he had done, and that he did it to destroy himself. Papers which he had thrown into the fire were produced, bearing the printed label of *arsenic* upon them; and about three pints of various matters—undigested food, liquids, mucus, &c.—were shown, which he had vomited. (A white powder was subsequently seen at the bottom.—DR. GREEN.) His eyes were a little suffused with slight lividity of the inner portion of the under lids. Countenance unmoved and sullen; skin moist; pulse slightly accelerated, small and feeble; tongue moist, and appearance natural. Said he was in no pain; had no thirst, burning of the mouth or throat. Would not admit that there was any pain in the stomach or bowels, and pressure was made firmly over every part of the abdomen without his showing signs of tenderness. Some eggs were ordered and brought, and an emetic of sulphate of zinc prepared. But he obstinately refused to take anything offered, saying that he was determined to die, and wished to do so without interference. Attempts to force down the remedies were unsuccessful. He soon vomited several times, freely, and in the meanwhile had a copious natural dejection—at first formed, and afterwards liquid—without blood. Urine free. While at stool he vomited upon the the floor about two ounces of porridge-like matter, tinged yellow with bile. At this time, not long after my arrival, Dr. Green, who had been called, came in. So little had the patient the appearance of one having taken poison, that the Dr. was at first inclined to discredit the statement. The patient was still determined in his refusal to take remedies, and force was resorted to with success. He was made to take several eggs, and a drachm of sulphuret of potass (which Dr. G. had brought with him), dissolved in about a pint of water. Most of this was soon vomited up. The patient now yielded, and some milk and water and flax-seed tea were ordered him freely.

3, P. M. Vomiting frequent since last visit—quantity about a pint, nearly a quarter of which was fecal matter. Has had two liquid dejections, copious, without blood. Has no pain or thirst. Tongue clean and moist. Hands cold and fingers somewhat shrivelled. Pulse 112, exceedingly small and compressible. Abdomen lank and flaccid—no

tenderness admitted. Respiration natural and easy. Occasional grunting. Feels "rather cool." Pupil of the eye rather large, but obedient to light. Occasional hiccup. Apply warmth and sinapisms to the feet, and give wine and water, with tinct. opii.

8, P. M. Seen with Drs. Green and Ware, Jr. Appearance not materially altered. Now somewhat thirsty, and desiring cold water. Skin dry. Hands cold and shrivelled, as before. Pulse 120 (were 140 in the afternoon; Dr. GREEN), very languid, compressible and "flabby." Tongue somewhat furred, whitish; some dryness of throat and fauces. Some tenderness in the epigastrium. Says he has no pain, but feels badly, and cannot describe his sensations. Hiccup frequent. Sinapisms had not been applied, nor wine given (through scruples or superstitions of his mother). Agreed to apply sinapisms to epigastrium and feet, and to give every hour a mixture of brandy, 3ss.; laudanum, gtt.x., and water, 3ii. Drinks as before.

11, P. M. Evidently much worse. Some jactitation. Sensations very distressing—in paroxysms. Hands, feet, pulse, and skin as before. Breathing not morbid. Tongue not furred. Throat very dry and burning. Constant hiccup; and nausea occasionally distressing. Calls constantly for cold water, which his mother will not allow to be given him, because some one has told her that "it will scatter the poison all over his body." No vomiting. No dejection since last visit. Abdomen rather fuller than in the afternoon, but by no means distended. Pressure made pretty strongly over every part of it, without drawing forth signs of any considerable pain, though evidently more tenderness than before, and chiefly in the epigastrium. On examination no organ could be distinguished, and the stomach could not be defined. Sinapisms were now applied, and more brandy given, with directions to continue the remedies.

Died between 3 and 4 next morning (21st). According to account he had many "distressed turns," with faintness and pain, in one of which he died. Towards the last, jactitation increased, and his calls for cold water to allay the burning were frequent and distressing.

**AUTOPSY**, 12 hours after death.—Extremities extremely rigid. Much cadaverous lividity, though no where deep. Yellow fluid runs abundantly from the nostrils on moving the body. Abdomen full, but not distended. No petechiæ.

**Thorax.** Pleura healthy, except for old adhesions to some extent. Lungs; congested, but not remarkably so for one dying in full health. No ecchymoses seen; no tubercles. Pericardium healthy. Heart firmly contracted. A few small ecchymosed spots beneath the serous surface about base of left ventricle. Upon the inner surface of the left ventricle, where it forms the septum, is a red stain, perhaps 1 to 1 1-2 inches in extent; not well defined, nor very deep, and scarcely, if at all, extending below the surface. It cannot be wiped off, and yet it is quite different from an ecchymosis. Nothing of the kind in any other part of the organ. The columnæ carneæ of the left ventricle are more properly ecchymosed, though not to any great extent, nor very deep. Right auricle distended with coagula, and some also in the left; no fibrin seen.

**Abdomen.** Stomach immensely distended; besides some gas, con-

taining about a pint and a half of substance like thick curdled milk and water, colored yellow with bile ; also, a few white grains, probably the arsenic. The mucous membrane discolored only to a small extent, in the large curvature, about the commencement of the pyloric portion ; seeming to consist of an effusion of blood into the substance of the membrane—very dark red patches, mostly long and narrow. Several of these patches were two or three inches in length, and half an inch wide. Some were irregular, and the membrane in these parts thick and quite firm. At two different places something like thick curdled milk adhered to the membrane, to the extent of a quarter to half an inch square, very readily detached, and beneath one of them the membrane seemed superficially ulcerated. No coagula on the free surface of the mucous membrane, nor was any blood mixed with the contents of the stomach. No ecchymosed points about the discolored spots, and the rest of the membrane appeared quite healthy. Oesophagus healthy. Small intestines moderately distended, and filled with a large quantity of light-colored secretions of the mucous membrane. Membrane generally red, more particularly about Peyer's glands. Three or four masses of dark coagulated blood on the free surface of the mesentery, about two or three lines in diameter. Mesenteric glands rather red. Large intestines contracted throughout to about the size of the finger ; regularly sacculated, and the mucous membrane proportionally corrugated. Liver and spleen not remarkable. Bladder firmly contracted.

N. B.—The contents of the stomach, together with a portion of the white powder, scattered on the floor at the grocery, have been given to a chemist for analysis, but the result has not yet been ascertained. There can be no doubt, however, that the substance taken was as the patient alleged, and as other circumstances confirmed.

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## BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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BOSTON, MARCH 7, 1838.

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### MEDICAL MISSIONARY SERVICE.

THE American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions have in their service, the following regularly educated physicians, whose employment redounds greatly to the honor, humanity, and enlarged views of the Society.—Drs. Elizur Butler, appointed 1819, and stationed among the Cherokee Indians ; Gerrit P. Judd, appointed 1827—located at the Sandwich Islands ; Dan B. Bradley, appointed 1832—located in Siam ; Nathan Ward, appointed 1833, and resides at Ceylon ; Roderick L. Dodge, appointed 1834—stationed with the Creek Indians ; Newton Adams, appointed 1834—resides in South Africa ; Asabel Grant, appointed 1834—stationed in Persia ; Marcus Whitman, appointed 1835—stationed with the Nez Percés Indians, beyond the Rocky Mountains ; Seth L. Andrews, appointed 1835, and resident at the Sandwich Islands ; Stephen Tracy, appointed 1835, and located in the Indian Archipelago ; John Steel, appointed 1836, and located in South India.

Dr. Thomas Holman, who received his appointment in 1819, was settled at the Sandwich Islands, and died in 1821. Dr. Abraham Blatcherly, appointed to the Sandwich Island Station in 1827, died the same year. Dr. Benedict Satterlee was appointed to the Pawnee Indian Station in 1835, and died in 1837. Drs. William W. Pride, George L. Weed, and Alonzo Chapin, who were formerly under the patronage of the Board, have recently dissolved their connection.

To the above catalogue should be appended the name of Peter Parker, M.D., an eminently successful operator on the eye, residing at Canton, in China. Dr. Bradley, of whom frequent mention has been heretofore made in this Journal, resides at Bangkok, the capital of Siam. His professional skill has been appreciated by all ranks and conditions of people. It is stated in the last annual report of the Board, that 3,800 persons had received medical aid from this gentleman. At the last accounts, Dr. Grant, our friend and correspondent, who formerly travelled through Patagonia, and who now resides in Oormiah, in Persia, had performed *fifty operations for cataract*. One of his patients was a Kurdish chief, from the banks of the Tigris. The sick resort to him from great distances. In fact, such celebrity was perhaps never enjoyed by a medical man before, where the press is unknown. His reputation is based on his actual success. Dr. Scudder, at the Madras Station, is also very successful in practice. In short, the American physicians, at those remote sections of the world, fully sustain the medical character of the country from which they hail.

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*Boylston Medical Society.*—The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year, at the last meeting of the Society. Henry G. Wiley, M.D., *President*; Benjamin E. Cotting, M.D., *Vice President*; John B. Johnson, *Secretary*; John Bacon, Jr. A.B., *Treasurer*; George C. Shattuck, M.D., George Hayward, M.D., W. Channing, M.D., E. Hale, M.D., Z. B. Adams, M.D., J. Ware, M.D., and W. Lewis, Jr., M.D. *Trustees*.

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*Dr. Armsby's Lectures.*—It is extremely gratifying to notice the warm expressions of satisfaction manifested by the gentlemen who have attended Dr. Armsby's late anatomical lectures at Troy, N. Y.—*one hundred and thirty-eight in number*—which outweighs half the incorporated schools of medicine north of Philadelphia. We have watched Dr. A.'s progress with unusual interest, and feel no common degree of pleasure in his sure and successful march to usefulness and distinction in the character of a public teacher of human anatomy.

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*Marine Hospitals.*—Three of these institutions are to be established by the general government, on the Ohio river; and the locations fixed upon are Paducah, Louisville and Wheeling. It is said that an effort is making to have Pittsburgh substituted for Wheeling—out of which a paper war is now raging between the people of the two places. The location fixed upon by the government officers, will not, it is thought, be changed.

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*Worcester Insane Hospital.*—In answer to the inquiry, "Has Dr. Woodward made a report to the legislature the present year," we can only say that we have not seen one, but presume the manuscript is in the



hands of some committee, and will by and by be ready for distribution. This annual document is looked for with much interest all over the Union.

*Lectures on Smallpox.*—Notes from Dr. Palmer's second lecture on this subject, at Woodstock, Vt., came too late for insertion the present week. Highly as we estimate Dr. Palmer's pathological acquirements, we feel constrained to say that we differ from him altogether on the value of vaccination. On the second Thursday of March, the annual lecture term of the Vermont Medical College, located in the beautiful town of Woodstock, will commence. There is good judgment, science, and energy of character combined in the present board of faculty. Students seem to be concentrating there already from a distance.

*Elements of Pathological Anatomy.*—Professor Gross is about to commit to the press, a work on Pathological Anatomy, to serve as an elementary treatise for office pupils, and a text book for those in attendance on lectures. It will be comprised in one octavo volume, and appear in the course of this spring.—*Western Journal*.

*Medical Miscellany.*—A bill to incorporate the Literary and Botanico-Medical College of Ohio, was lost in the Senate of that State, by a vote of 21 to 13.—The number of pupils in the Cincinnati Medical College is 112.—The editor of the Western Medical Journal (Dr. Drake), asks, "Why cannot the physicians and other scientific men of the United States form and sustain an association like that of Great Britain? Its advantages and pleasures would be manifold, and, we doubt not, its meetings would be well attended."—The editor of the Southern Medical Journal thinks we possess no remedy of so much anti-hemorrhagic power, for internal use, and combining so much uniform efficacy and safety, as ergot.—The Transylvania Journal of Medicine has completed its tenth volume—being the third medical journal, as to age, in the United States.—Professor Gibson, of Philadelphia, has successfully performed the Cæsarean operation a second time on the same patient.—It is estimated that in the year 1836, there were published, in France, 180,000 pages on medical subjects, including medical memoirs, pamphlets, &c.—The last number of the Philadelphia Medical Examiner, which periodical is mainly devoted to the reports of clinical lectures, details an instance of gross personality and abuse, in the public lectures of two of the surgeons of the Philadelphia Hospital, which is as disgraceful as it is uncommon among medical lecturers in this country.—The lectures in the Crosby Street (New York) Medical College closed on Wednesday last.—The Vermont Mercury states that the flaming advertisement in the public papers, setting forth the virtues of the "Matchless Sanative," was originally written, some seven years since, in this city, as a burlesque upon the foreign quackery by which our country is disgraced and overrun. Being shown to an apothecary, he offered and paid what the writer demanded for his ingenious production.—Our respected correspondent, Dr. Mettauer, of Virginia, has an excellent article on *Staphylocorophy*, of over twenty pages, in the last number of the Philadelphia Journal of the Medical Sciences, illustrated with a plate of the instruments used in this operation for cleft palate.

Whole number of deaths in Boston, for the week ending March 3, 39. Males, 20—Females, 19.  
Consumption, 5—infantile, 3—intemperance, 1—typhus fever, 1—fever, 1—lung fever, 7—dys., 9  
—cholera infantum, 1—old age, 3—dropsy on the brain, 1—suicide, 1—cancer, 1—diarrhea, 1—dis-  
ease of the heart, 1—abscess, 2—rheumatism, 1—brain fever, 1—scarlet fever, 1.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**—Several communications are on file, which will have insertion as soon as room can be obtained for them. A statistical paper on *Pulmonary Consumption*, has claims to priority, next week. "Pneumonia and Malformation," together with the case of *Monstrosity*, will appear in due course.

The reader is respectfully referred to the first article in this day's Journal—a paper of interest, by a physician of this city, who has recently returned from his second tour in Europe. Many of the changes which had taken place between his first and second visit, are accurately noted, and are particularly interesting to medical men. We hope to receive, very soon, another letter from Dr. Warren, who is, probably, now in Rome.

### VERMONT ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

The annual Spring Term of the Vermont Academy of Medicine will commence on *Thursday*, the 8th of March, and continue thirteen weeks.

Theory and Practice of Medicine and Materia Medica, by	WILLIAM TULLY, M.D.
Surgery and Obstetrics, by	THEODORE WOODWARD, M.D.
Chemistry and Natural History, by	JOHN D'WOLF, M.D.
Anatomy and Physiology, by	JAMES H. ARMSBY, M.D.

Fees—for the Lectures, \$45; graduation fee, \$30; matriculation ticket, \$5.  
The Chemical Lectures will commence about the 30th of March.

M7—9

### VERMONT MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The annual Course of Lectures, at this institution, will commence on the second *Thursday* of March next, and continue thirteen weeks.

Theory and Practice of Medicine and Obstetrics, by	H. H. CHILDS, M.D.
Pathological Anatomy, by	ELISHA BARTLETT, M.D.
General and Special Anatomy and Physiology, by	ROBERT WATTS, JR., M.D.
Principles and Practice of Surgery, by	GILMAN KINBALL, M.D.
Chemistry and Materia Medica, by	DAVID PALMER, M.D.
Medical Jurisprudence, by	NORMAN WILLIAMS, A.M.

Woodstock, January 17th, 1838. F7—opt M7

### MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

This subscriber proposes to take a few medical students, and to connect a small school with his private establishment for the treatment of invalids and for surgical operations. He has procured convenient rooms, and has secured the necessary facilities for anatomical inquiries and demonstrations. His pupils will also have the privilege of witnessing such interesting and important cases as occur in the private practice of a country physician and surgeon.

Springfield, January, 1838.

Jan. 17.

JOSEPH H. FLINT.

### MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

Two subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction, and will receive pupils on the following terms:

The pupils will be admitted to the practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and will receive clinical lectures on the cases they witness there. Instruction, by lectures or examinations, will be given in the intervals of the public lectures, every week day.

On Midwifery, and the Diseases of Women and Children, and on Chemistry, by	DR. CHANNING.
On Physiology, Pathology, Therapeutics, and Materia Medica, by	" DR. WARE.
On the Principles and Practice of Surgery, by	" DR. OTIS.
On Anatomy, by	" DR. LEWIS.

The students are provided with a room in Dr. Lewis's house, where they have access to a large library. Lights and fuel without any charge. The opportunities for acquiring a knowledge of Anatomy are not inferior to any in the country.

The fees are \$100—to be paid in advance. No credit given, except on sufficient security of some person in Boston, nor for a longer period than six months.

Applications are to be made to Dr. Walter Channing, Tremont Street, opposite the Tremont House, Boston.

WALTER CHANNING,  
JOHN WARE,  
GEORGE W. OTIS, JR.,  
WINSLOW LEWIS, JR.

Oct. 18—1f

**THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL** is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAPP, JR. at 184 Washington Street, corner of Franklin Street, to whom all communications must be addressed, *post-paid*. It is also published in Monthly Parts, each Part containing the weekly numbers of the preceding month, stitched in a cover. J. V. C. SMITH, M.D. Editor.—Price \$2.00 a year in advance, \$2.50 after three months, and \$4.00 if not paid within the year.—Agents allowed every seventh copy gratis.—Orders from a distance must be accompanied by payment in advance, or satisfactory reference.—Postage the same as for a Newspaper.